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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

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1. As the result of recent difficulties in steel procurement, USIA-controlled Waagner-Biro A.G. will be unable to meet delivery deadlines on several Soviet and Czech orders for railway equipment. Heretofore Waagner-Biro has received fairly regular deliveries of rolled steel profiles and steel plate from VOEST, Linz. However, steel deliveries from this source have fallen off sharply during the past eight weeks, and for two weeks no raw materials whatever have been received from VOEST. Waagner-Biro has therefore had to suspend production of a freight car shifting stage which had been scheduled for delivery to the Soviets by June 1952.* Furthermore, 40 percent of the Waagner-Biro employees assigned to the construction of railway cranes are now working only a 30-hour week, pending the resumption of regular deliveries of vital raw materials to this plant.**
2. The management of Waagner-Biro A.G. is gravely concerned over the fact that the plant will be unable to meet the delivery deadlines for this railway equipment. The Soviet Trade Delegation in Vienna, meanwhile, is reported to be attempting to procure steel plate and rolled steel profiles from Czechoslovakia for delivery to Waagner-Biro A.G.

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